



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ljubljana's PoliMaT Opens Up Headquarters in Akron's Global Business Accelerator More Local Jobs for Akron's Residents

November 26, 2012 (Akron, Ohio) – In partnership with the City of Akron, the Akron Global Business Accelerator (AGBA), and the Slovenian Government, the Center of Excellence for Polymer Materials and Technologies (CE PoliMaT) announced today the opening of its U.S. Innovation Headquarters and the formation of the science and technology bridge between Slovenia and Akron, Ohio. These headquarters will enable Slovenia companies to test the U.S. marketplace.

The opening of this office is the result of several months of intensive work with representatives of Slovenia. The relationship started in May, when Mr. Jurček Žmauc, Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland,

toured Akron as part of a group visit from the Chicago International Trade Commissioners Association (CITCA).

The positive impression of Akron's strengths and capabilities brought about an invitation to Mayor Don Plusquellic, Deputy Mayor Bob Bowman, Councilman Garry Moneypenny, and AGBA Director of Entrepreneurial Services Dr. Anthony Margida, to travel to Ljubljana, Slovenia to attend the Foreign Direct Investment Summit Slovenia and the Innovative Cities Conference. That visit, just two months ago, resulted in a signed Memorandum of Cooperation between Technology Park Ljubljana and the Akron Global Business Accelerator. The parties also set the foundation for a bilateral science and technology bridge.

"Our goal is to assist Slovenia companies in commercializing their products, which will lead to sales, marketing, distribution, manufacturing and ultimately jobs for our citizens and the same for the citizens of Slovenia," noted Mayor Plusquellic.

While the event today celebrates the AGBA's partnership with CE PoliMaT, the work of the partnership has been well underway. In recent weeks, AGBA conducted a US commercialization workshop for CE PoliMaT; initiated collaborative meetings with the University of Akron School of Polymer Science and Engineering; and, held technically exploratory sessions with Akron General Medical Center, NEOMED, and Children's Hospital. These collaborative meetings led to the Memorandum of Understanding that CE PoliMaT formalized with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron at the ceremony today. The objective of this MOU is to collaborate in translational research in the area of biomaterials and biomedical applications that will lead to commercialization and job creation in Akron and Slovenia.

"In three years of its operation, Center of Excellence PoliMaT has developed valuable innovations by bringing together the dispersed competencies of its founders and partners, namely institutions and companies from Slovenia engaged in polymer science and technology, as well as partnering institutions from abroad," said Mateja Dermastia, CEO of CE PoliMaT. "The aim to internationalize and expand collaborations has led CE PoliMaT to Akron, Ohio - the world capital of polymers. Our objective is to support the technology bridge between Akron, Ohio and Slovenia, by jointly developing knowledge and seizing the opportunities for economic development of both regions. We look forward to future collaborations with our partners in Akron and would like to express our gratitude for all the support we received, especially by the City of Akron, Akron Global Business Accelerator, Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron and University of Akron."

Distinguished speakers at the event included the honorable Ljudmila Novak (Minister for Slovenians Abroad), Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Bob Bowman, Mateja Dermastia (CEO, CE PoliMaT), Dr. Anthony Margida (Director of Entrepreneurial Services, AGBA), Dr. Frank Douglas (CEO, ABIA), and Akron Councilman Garry Money Penny.

End.